

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 PM-04 H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /084 W
-----042153Z 059376 /67

R 041550Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5264
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
DIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USCINCEUR VIAHINGEN GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION GENEVA

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USCINCEUR FOR POLAD
USDOCOSOUTH FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, ICFTU, CY, TU
SUBJECT: TURK CYPRIOTS ATTEND GREEK CYPRIOT COCKTAIL

REF: ATHENS 1091 (NOTAL)

1. IN WAKE OF MAKARIOS-DENKTASH MEETING AND IN LINE
WITH APPARENT DESIRE OF BOTH SIDES HERE TO DEMONSTRATE
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"GOODWILL" AND RESTRAINT PRIOR TO FEB 12-13 MEETINGS, FOUR
TURK CYPRIOT JOURNALISTS ATTENDED GREEK CYPRIOT COCKTAIL
FEB 3 CELEBRATING FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF PRO-CLERIDES DAILY
SIMERINI. TURK CYPRIOT AUTHORITIES GAVE PERMISSION FOR
JOURNALISTS TO ATTEND COCKTAIL, AND GREEK AUTHORITIES
AT LEDRA PALACE CHECKPOINT LET THE TURKS PASS THROUGH
WITH NO DIFFICULTIES. JOURNALISTS WERE GREETED BY

CHEERS UPON THEIR ARRIVAL AT THE RECEPTION AND LATER
WENT TO GREEK CYPRIOT TAVERN FOR DINNER WITH SOME OF
THEIR GREEK CYPRIOT COLLEAGUES.

2. THERE HAS BEEN AND CONTINUES TO BE SOME CONTACT
BETWEEN GREEK CYPRIOTS AND TURK CYPRIOTS ON THE ISLAND.
GREEK CYPRIOT ENGINEERS IN CHARGE OF MAINTENANCE OF
WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM AND EQUIPMENT PERIODICALLY CONSULT
WITH THEIR TURK CYPRIOT COLLEAGUES WHEN BREAKDOWNS OCCUR.
IN ADDITION, GREEK CYPRIOT TECHNICIANS REGULARLY GO TO
THE TURKISH SIDE OF NICOSIA TO MAINTAIN COMPUTERS IN
VARIOUS TURKISH CYPRIOT BANKS. WE ALSO UNDERSTND THAT
GREEK CYPRIOT DOCTORS OCCASIONALLY ARE ASKED TO VISIT
PATIENTS ON THE TURKISH SIDE IN SPECIAL MEDICAL CASES.

3. THESE CONTACTS, HOWEVER, ARE RELATIVELY UNPUBLICIZED
AND THUS THE PUBLIC NATURE OF THE TURKISH GESTURE IN
ALLOWING JOURNALISTS TO ATTEND GREEK SOCIAL FUNCTION
WAS A USEFUL STEP IN REMINDING THE TWO COMMUNITIES THAT
DESPITE THEIR MANY DIFFERENCES THEY RETAIN MUCH IN
COMMON. SOME GREEK CYPRIOTS HAVE SUGGESTED TO US THAT
FURTHER SOCIAL, PROFESSIONAL, AND APOLITICAL CONTACTS
BETWEEN THE TWO COMMUNITIES WOULD BE MOST USEFUL, AND
WE HAVE TRIED TO ENCOURAGE PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS AS WELL AS
OFFICIALS IN BOTH COMMUNITIES IN THIS DIRECTION. IN THIS REGARD,
WE READ WITH INTEREST ATHENS 1091 WHICH REPORTED THAT
ICFTU GENERAL SECRETARY KERSTEN WAS PLANNING TO TAKE
AN INITIATIVE TO BRING ABOUT CONTACTS BETWEEN THE TWO
COMMUNITIES. WE RECALL THAT ACFTU HAD PLANNED A
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CONFERENCE ON CYPRUS AT THE LEDRA PALACE SOME
TIME IN LATE 1975 BUT THAT POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS
ON TURKISH SIDE PREVENTED CONFERENCE FROM TAKING PLACE.
ANY INFORMATION GENEVA COULD PICK UP ON KERSTEN'S PLANS
WOULD BE USEFUL TO US IN OUR EFFORTS TO QUIETLY PROMOTE
EXPANDED CONTACTS HERE BETWEEN THE TWO COMMUNITIES.

4. DURING FEB 4 LUNCH WITH EMBOFFS, "TFSC FOREIGN MINISTER"
CHELIK CLAIMED THAT HE HAD PERSONALLY TAKEN THE DECISION TO
ALLOW TURK CYPRIOT JOURNALISTS TO CROSS OVER. HE SAID THE
TURKISH SIDE FAVORED EXPANDED CONTACTS OF THIS NATURE IN
PRINCIPLE, BUT SAID MUCH WOULD DEPEND ON ATMOSPHERE AND
OUTCOME OF FUTURE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, SOCIAL RECEPTIONS, JOURNALISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NICOSI00349
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770041-0450
Format: TEL
From: NICOSIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770272/aaaaclpc.tel
Line Count: 111
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 37ca97cb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ATHENS 1091
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3406741
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TURK CYPRIOTS ATTEND GREEK CYPRIOT COCKTAIL
TAGS: ELAB, CY, TU, ICFTU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/37ca97cb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009